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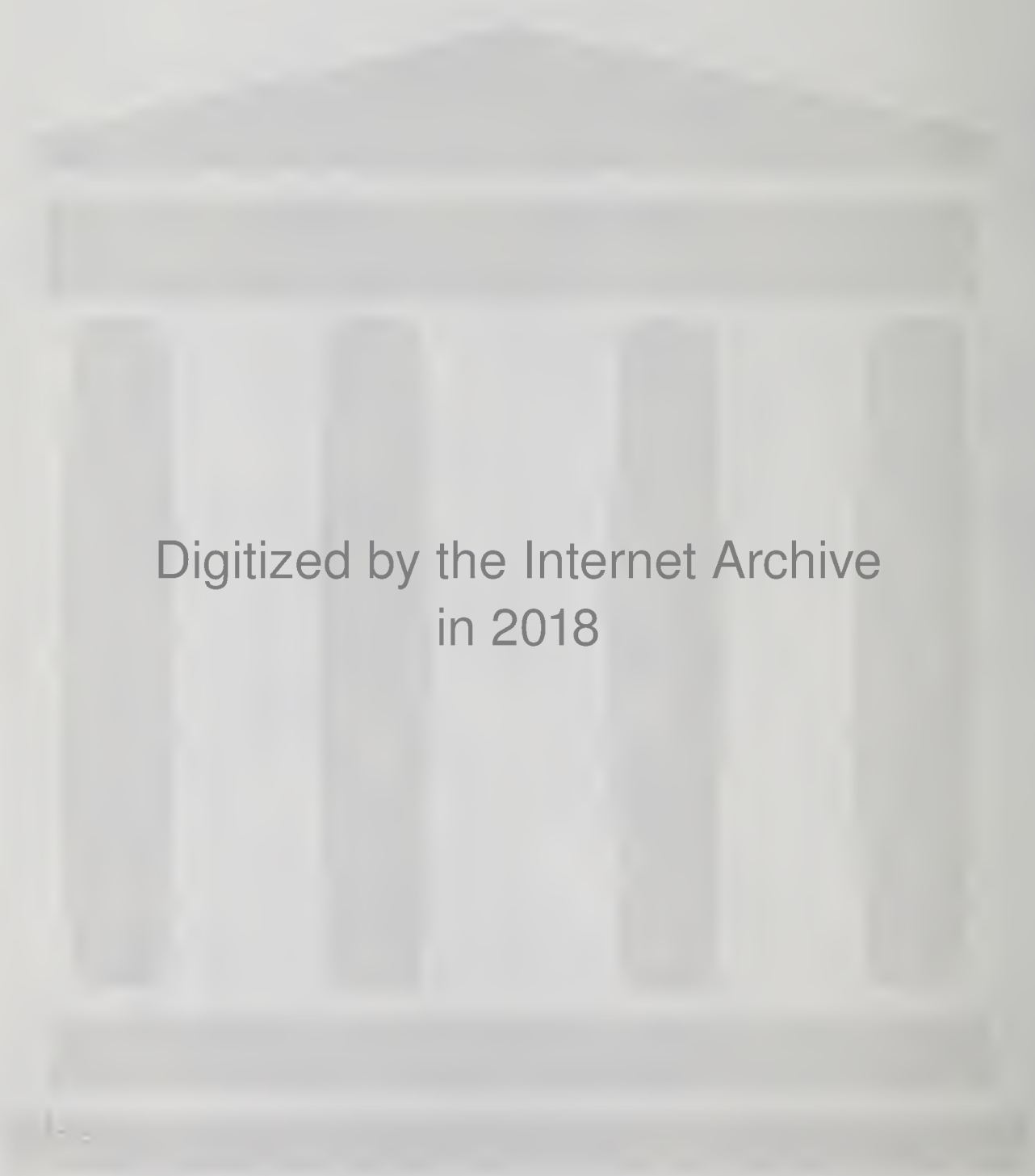
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BULLETIN

Newport Historical Society

THE BULL FAMILY OF NEWPORT

WRITTEN BY

R. I.

HENRY BULL, 4th, 1778-1841

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BULLETIN

OF THE

Newport Historical Society

Number Eighty-one

NEWPORT, R. I.

October, 1931

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HENRY BULL, 4th, 1778-1841

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"Like leaves on trees the race of men are found,
"Now green in youth, now withering on the ground,
"Another race, the following Spring supplies,
"They fall successive and successive rise,
"So generations in their course decay,
"So flourish these when those have passed away!"

THE BULL FAMILY OF NEWPORT, R. I.

I, Henry Bull, of Newport, on Rhode Island, having three daughters and two sons, viz.—Sarah, Catharine, Phœbe, Henry, and John; and judging from my own history of our progenitors, I have herein dedicated to posterity such family facts and traditions as have come to my knowledge. It has been with much labor and investigation that I have procured the very imperfect History which follows; owing partly to the destruction of the Town Records of Newport, which were carried away with the British Army, when they evacuated the Town in the Revolutionary War. The vessel in which they were carried having been sunk in Hurlgate near New York, when they lay a long time, under water, and when recovered, and brought back were so much destroyed and decayed as to be mostly either missing or unintelligible as to family papers, I have found none further back than my grandfather's will, a circumstance I can in no way account for.

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The Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society is published quarterly, in January, May, September, and November. It contains articles on the history of Newport, Rhode Island, and its surrounding area. The articles are written by members of the Society, and are of interest to the general public. The Bulletin is published by the Society, 100 South Main Street, Newport, Rhode Island.

THE HISTORY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

The history of Newport, Rhode Island, is a story of growth and development. From its early days as a small fishing village, it has become a major center of commerce and industry. The city's location on the coast has been a major factor in its development. The harbor has been a major center of trade, and the city has been a major center of industry. The history of Newport is a story of the people who have lived here, and of the events that have shaped the city. The Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of Newport, Rhode Island.

HENRY BULL, 1st

I know nothing of my transatlantic ancestor, before he came to this Country, except that my Aunt Wanton (when she was about 80 years old) told me he came from South Wales. His name was Henry. The following is a memorandum from Dr. Jackson: and afterwards inserted—"Henry Bull, aged 25 years, came from England passenger in the ship 'James,' John Jay, Master, July 17, 1635. He died Feb. 22, 1693. If in 1635 July, he was 25 years old, he was July 1693, 83 years old. He might have been 84 before his death, and perhaps soon after July, which will account for his Stone 85 years, he being some months over 84 years."

He came first to the Massachusetts, but how long he remained there, I never learned. He joined an association of 18 persons while in Massachusetts, who incorporated themselves on the 7th day of March, 1637-8 with a view to settle a new colony out of the jurisdiction of any colony then established in America. This measure was taken in consequence of the penalties and disabilities laid upon them by the Ecclesiastical authority of the Massachusetts, for non-conformity.

The said company of 18 persons purchased the Island of Aquidneck (Rhode Island) of the Indian Sachems, Canonicus, and Miantonomy, March 24, 1637-8. They removed with their families and took possession of their purchase about the last of April following and commenced the Settlement at Portsmouth, where they laid out a Town and H. Bull built one of the first houses there.

In the year 1639, he with seven other purchasers, removed to the South part of the Island, and settled the town of Newport. I have understood by my father that he had a brother who settled in Connecticut, who I believe was named Thomas.

Our maternal ancestor, wife of the said Henry, was named Elizabeth. Whether she came from England with him or was married in Massachusetts, I never learned. She appears to have been the only wife who bore him children.

He built the Stone House now standing on the East side of Spring Street, directly fronting Bull's Gap, which is a short street running from Broad Street to Spring Street,

which was left open for a passage from Broad Street direct to said House. This House in 1641 was used as a garrison house, to which the neighbors were to repair in case of danger from the Indians, and Mr. Lenthall's house was also appointed for the same purpose. The said Stone House is now owned by Mr. Edward Stanhope of Newport. He was a dealer in furs and peltry, and was by trade a Hatter, and must have possessed some property when he came here, as it required something to make his part of the purchase and to bear his proportion of the infant establishment, as likewise to build two houses in little more than a year after the settlement began.

Jareth Bull, son of Henry and Elizabeth Bull, was born at *Pocasset, since called Portsmouth*, in September, 1638. Their son *Henry was born somewhere about the year 1658*, the exact time I never learned, nor where buried, but he was the son from whom our branch of the family descended. They had a daughter named Hester, when born does not appear but she died in March 26th, 1676, and I believe was married. They had also another daughter named Mary, who was born in 1663 and lived to the advanced age of 91 years. She married James Coggeshall, who died leaving her a widow without children. She spent the remainder of her days in the family of her nephew, Henry Bull, who was my grandfather, and she occupied the South Chamber in his house, which is the house in which I now reside. She was buried on the west side of her father in the south part of the Coddington burying place, where their two grave-stones are now in good preservation.

Elizabeth, wife of Henry Bull, died October 1, 1665, and was buried in Newport. He afterwards married Ann Easton, widow of Nicholas Easton, March 28, 1677. Her maiden name was Ann Clayton, who survived him and died Jany. 30th, 1707; she was the person who sold the land called Easton's Point to the Quakers, which is the north part of the Town of Newport fronting the Bay.

He held various offices in the Colony until a few years before his death. He was Governor in the year 1685, after which, being then in an advanced stage of life, and possessing an ample landed estate, he retired from public employment to end his days in domestic peace; but after the Revo-

lution in England (the Colony Charter having been vacated, and the Government put under Sir Edmund Andros, who held it till the Spring of 1689), he was induced to come forward again into public life. After Sir Edmund was imprisoned in Boston, the Freemen of R. Island and Providence Plantations met at Newport on the 1st day of May, 1689, and determined to resume their former Charter Government, and proceeded to choose or reinstate their former officers accordingly; but of the persons so chosen many refused to accept, and among the rest, the Governor-elect; in consequence of the boldness of the measure and the responsibility of the station, the dangerous and unsettled state of the times, the uncertainty with what reception their proceedings might meet in England, and what personal consequence might fall upon those most forward in the undertaking. The Government was not fully organized until the February following; all which time, no one of the principal inhabitants could be found of sufficient nerve to accept the Gubernatorial chair, but this man, then at a very advanced age. He did accept and said that if his neck paid the forfeiture, it was worth but little at his time of life. He was then elected by the Assembly, accepted the office and served until the next annual election, when he was again chosen, but positively refused to serve any longer, as the danger which had deterred others, no longer existed, at least, to the same extent.

He had a family servant named Hugh Parrott, who survived his master.

His property was very considerable, but owing to the destruction of the Town Records I have never been able to find any copy of his Will. He had a valuable farm in Newport which lay a little below Pelham Street, and ran from the water Eastward up the hill, which farm he gave to his eldest son Jireth, whose house afterwards stood where the house of the heirs of Joseph Briggs now is. He gave his Grand Son, Henry Bull, (my grandfather) the estate where I now reside, which then extended as far South as the First Baptist Meeting House and easterly as far as my land now extends, but what other property he gave my grandfather I am unable to say, but he had a valuable farm near Tower Hill in Narragansett which he inherited either from his Father or Grandfather, which, I cannot say.

He gave the estate now belonging to William G. Hammond, Mrs. Millen and the heirs of Benjamin Pitman, all of which are on Broad Street and adjoin my land to the northward and eastward, to two Grandsons, the children of his son Jireth; their names were Ephraim and Ezekiel.

He survived the whole of his associates in the purchase of the Island, and died at his house in Newport the 22nd of Feby. 1693, aged 84 years.

HENRY BULL, 2nd

2nd Generation—Henry Bull, youngest son of Henry, was born about the year 1658. I know but little of his character or history. I had been told by my father and my Aunt Wanton that he died young a middle-aged man, but at what age or where buried they did not know. He died at about the age of 31 or 32. I have since ascertained that he was buried in his father's land some where back of the old family Stone Mansion, but no grave, or monument has been found. He married Ann Cole of Kingston, in Narragansett and he resided in that Town and was conservator of the peace there in 1689. He had two sons, the eldest named *Henry, he was our grandfather*, the other, my Aunt Phœbe told me was named Ephraim, but as he died young she was not quite certain about it. I have since ascertained that he was born Jan'y 23rd, 1690-91. They also had one daughter named Ann. The gravestones of the wife and daughter are in the common burying-ground in Newport and are engraved as follows:—"Ann, widow of Henry Bull, aged 45 yrs., died May 31st, 1704." "Ann, the daughter of Henry Bull of Kingston, Gentleman, deceased, and Ann his wife, Deceased December 18th, 1713, in the 24th year of her age." I extremely regret that I have not been able to obtain more particulars of this interesting member of our family.

HENRY BULL, 3rd

3rd Generation—My Grand Father, Henry Bull, son of the last named Henry, with his sister Ann, were left orphans, having lost their father and mother, besides a brother; and

were confided by their grandfather to the care of his daughter Mary, wife, and afterwards widow of James Coggeshall, who brought them up. The sister died, as has been seen before, at the age of 23 years, and Henry was put to the trade of a House Carpenter, and after he grew up he worked at his trade. He was born Nov. 23, 1687, and was only 6 years old when his grandfather died. At the age of 21, he built the house in which I now live and in 1709, when he was only 22 years old, he sold the lot now owned by my sister, Phœbe Carpenter, to James Cole (probably an uncle of his) and bounded the said lot on his own house westerly. The estate where I now live, he inherited from his Grandfather, and was descended regularly down the family from the first purchase of the Island, from the Indians, as I have often heard my father say, and which he had from his old Aunt Coggeshall, as well as from his father. Perhaps I may be charged with repeating, when I say that his estate extended south westerly, adjoining the one where I now live as far down as the 1st Baptist Meeting House and extending south Easterly as before described, on which stood, and now stands, the old family mansion house, before mentioned, built in the year 1639. He owned likewise in the Narragansett country, near Tower Hill, a part of which now belongs to Mr. John J. Watson, which now goes by the name of the Bull Farm, which I have heard my father say, made the largest dairy of any farm in that Country.

He married Martha Odlin, daughter of John Odlin of Newport on the 22nd of June, 1710, by whom he had four sons and two daughters—Henry, Lydia, John, Ann, Elisha, and Jireth.

Martha, wife of Henry Bull, died Feb. 11, 1720, in the 29th year of her age. Her grave stone was accidentally found by me a few years since, about 70 feet in a southwesterly direction from the grave of her husband, and is among those of the Odlin family. The only child which lived after the age of 21 years, was Lydia, who married Rouse Potter; her children were Henry, William, Thomas, and Lydia. Her eldest son, Henry, inherited the estate of his grandfather Odlin, which is a house and lot now standing on the west side of Clark Street, being the 2nd lot north of Mary Street.

Henry Bull married for his second wife Phœbe Coggeshall, daughter of Daniel Coggeshall, of Portsmouth, Feb. 1st, 1721. They had ten children, of whom the fourth was Mary, who married John Wanton, and had one son, and one daughter who married Daniel Lyman. The sixth child, Henry, born Dec. 18, 1732, was brought up to the Law and removed to the Island of Bermuda, where he was appointed King's Solicitor, and married, had 3 children at least, William, Henry, and Elizabeth. He came to this country on the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, having laid down his commission as soon as his King made war on his native country. He died in Wilmington, Delaware, soon after, say about 1781. *John*, the seventh son, *was my father* and will be treated of hereafter.

The husband was a Churchman and the wife was a Quakeress, and they had an understanding and agreement before marriage, that their sons should be brought up to go to church, which they were; and were also christened, and the daughters to go to the Quaker Meeting with the mother, all which was punctually performed. He was one of the early promoters of the establishment of Trinity Church in Newport and often said that he would always prefer to belong to the established church.

His second wife's property principally consisted of a Farm on the Island of Conanicut in the Town of Jamestown, called the Dumplins Farm, on which there is a rocky point, still called Bull's Point by mariners—this estate was given to her by her grandmother Mowry, widow of Joseph Mowry, who owned four farms on said Island, and gave her four granddaughters one farm each. Her death is recorded in the records of the friends' meeting, thus: "*Mary Mowry*, widow of Joseph Mowry, of Jamestown, aged 79 years; departed this life at her own house in Jamestown in the Colony of Rhode Island 17th of the 2nd mo. 1720, and was buried in Friends' burying ground there. Having been very serviceable in her day, and of good report among Friends and other people. Her maiden name was Wilbour."

"She was a public Friend and Doctress in so much respect among the Indians, that they thought there could be no virtue in any plaser or medicine, without they first saw her spit on it."

Henry Bull's person may be described thus: nearly six feet high, light complexion, blue eyes, well proportioned, handsome, graceful, and much celebrated for his talents and wit. In the early part of his life his employment was that of a carpenter. At the age of about 27, he commenced the practice of the Law; and became an able and successful advocate. He had a tolerable common education and nothing more. I have heard a number of old people who had been familiarly acquainted with him, relate what he told them about his law education. When he made up his mind to practice Law, he went into his garden, to exercise his talents at pleading and addressing the Court and Jury. There he selected five cabbages in one row for Judges, and twelve cabbages in another row for Jurors and then alternately addressed them as judge and jury. In a short time he came boldly into court and took upon him the duties of an advocate; and after a little experience there, he had found the same cabbages in the Court Room that he had left in the garden; five in one row, and twelve in the other! By whatever means he may have acquired a knowledge of the law, he certainly arrived at the height of the profession as it stood in his day before the Court of Law and Admiralty. He was one of those kind of men, whose sayings are never forgotten as long as the generation lasts who were on the stage of Life with him.

He kept nine black family servants, the names of which were Phillis, Bess, Tom, Dido, Phillip, Millia, Cate, Mima and Cambridge.

He partook liberally of the enjoyments of life, was of an easy and engaging temper, and lived to a great age. By the misfortune or imprudence of his children, especially his eldest son, he became extremely reduced in his circumstances in his old age, and sold all his estate except the one where I now live, and even that was deeply involved at the time of his death. He doubtless adopted many of the habits of that age, as they existed in Newport, for I have heard my father say that he staked the old stone mansion at a game of all fours and lost it.

His wife Phœbe died Dec. 23d, 1774, 10 o'clock A.M. in the 69th year of her age, and he died Dec. 27th, 1774, at 7 o'clock A.M. (aged 87 years 1 mo. and 4 days) at their house

at Newport, and were both buried at the same time in one grave in the common Burying place in Newport.

At some period in his life he was engaged in Commerce, to what extent I know not; but I have heard my father say he owned one brig, which when bound home from Jamaica with a load of Rum, was burned up on her passage by accident.

He was appointed Captain of the 1st Military Company in Newport in 1720—5th Representative from Newport in 1720—Attorney General in 1722, and 2nd Representative, and Speaker of the House in 1728 and 1729—One of the Committee to review the Statutes of the Colony in 1728 and first Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Newport, at the first establishment of those courts in the Colony in 1729.

JOHN BULL

Son of Henry and Phœbe Bull, was my father. He was born, as has been shown before, September 8th, 1734. He received a common school education, and by the time he was old enough to be put to some employment, his father, being somewhat advanced in years and reduced in circumstances, put him as an apprentice to Willam Stephens, who married his sister Ann. The said Stephens was a stone cutter, and made tomb and grave stones, which trade my father worked at, and was partly employed in an extensive grocery store, also kept by said Stephens. The store and shop were on the Long Wharf where the House now is owned by the Misses Richenson. He remained with his master but a short time, when, being dissatisfied with his master, he ran away from him, and secretly shipped on board a vessell bound on a Foreign Voyage. He continued a seafaring life until he was about 28 or 30 years old, was a-privateering in the French War; was a prize master and brought in a valuable prize taken from the French.

He quitted the sea at about the age of 28 or 30; and set down in Newport, where he worked at his trade, which he was induced to do on account of the great age and narrow circumstances of his parents; with whom he lived and con-

tributed his earnings to their support. He was married to Ruth Cornell, daughter of George Cornell, a reputable farmer of Middletown, whose homestead farm lay opposite the one now owned by Stephen T. Northam on the East side of the West Road, nearly four miles from Newport.

They were married August 18, 1769, and had four children: Henry Bull, 4th, being the last child.

His father died Dec. 24th, 1774, as before stated, and on the last day of his life was induced, principally by the influence of his daughter Phœbe, to make a codicil to his will, by which codicil my father considered himself materially injured, which caused a lasting separation between him and his sister Phœbe, which was never made up during their whole lives. He was a decided Whig of the Revolution, for which he was imprisoned, with many others, on board the Lord Sandwich Prison Ship for about six weeks, when they were all released. In fact, the whole tenor of his life was more patriotic than prudent, an instance of which occurred in his aiding the Armorer of the King to secrete the King's tools in his possession in a hole dug in my father's cellar, the day previous to the night on which he deserted to the American Army; A general search for them was made, and most of the houses in town searched, but he fortunately escaped detection, and the tools after the evacuation of the town by the British Army, were restored to the Armorer and used for the benefit of the American cause. After his father died the mansion house continued in the possession of his sister Phœbe, who was made executrix by the last codicil in his father's will, until the town was occupied by the Royal Army, when it was used for quartering the soldiers, during the winter. In the Spring, when the Army went into Camp, and the house was empty, my father moved immediately in. Being in possession, with a determination to hold at all events if possible, nothing but a judgment of court could eject him; under such circumstances, when the Town was in the utmost distress and real property almost without value, and the Executrix unable to furnish means to carry on a litigious Law suit, my father remained undisturbed for a number of years, when she, by the aid of a friend brought an action of ejectment against him, but by great address and management on his part,

aided by a very general feeling among his neighbors, that his claim was at least equitable, with some pretense of claim or title at least to a part of the estate, he succeeded and the verdict was given in his favor for cost. The suit continued for a number of years, and brought out in my father, some of the spirit and talent of his Father as to managing legal controversy. Having defeated the action of ejectment he continued in peaceable possession of the whole estate until time ripened and perfected the title, whatever it might have been before.

He sold one half of the meadow lands, being over three acres, to Doctor Easton and applied the proceeds to the discharge of a mortgage which covered double the quantity.

His estate consisted of the house where I now live, with a stone cutter's shop south of it, the yard and garden, with the Land eastward and adjoining the garden containing about $3\frac{3}{4}$ acres. As to personal estate he had none, for what he earned hard he spent freely. He was a good provider for his family as far as his means would go. He was kind and affectionate to his children, and beloved and respected by his neighbors. He labored at his calling until about 10 years of his death, when he became blind. He always expressed a desire to give me a liberal education, and nothing prevented, but a total failure of the pecuniary means.

As to his person, he was about the height of his father, say about 5 ft. 9 or 5 ft. 10 inches. Light complexion, and light blue eyes, of a hardy and robust constitution, and, though good looking, was not so handsome as his father. In his temper he was quick but not revengeful, his judgment of men and things was sound and comprehensive. His native talents were of the first order, though not much refined by education; he retained much of the sailor manners which he had acquired in Nautical Life, but was always respected and often courted by those of the first circles of society.

He died in Newport, at the house of Captain John B. Atkinson, where he boarded, suddenly of apoplexy, November 28th, 1808, aged 74 years 2 mo. and 20 days.

RUTH, WIFE OF JOHN BULL

Ruth, wife of John Bull, died Sept. 15, 1799, aged 52 years, 2 mo. and 24 days.

Her father's name was George Cornell of Middletown on Rhode Island. He owned two good farms which he gave to his sons, and only a small legacy, at his death, to each of his daughters. She had four brothers, Robert, Samuel, Benjamin and Oliver, and three sisters, Hannah who married James Tew, Deliverance who married Solomon Littlefield, and Patience who married Robert Millwicks; making eight in all. Her father, George Cornell, married Rebecca Hicks of Tiverton on the 18th of March, 1738-9, the certificate of which is recorded on the 275th page in the marriage register in Portsmouth.

Her grandfather was of the same name as her father, viz., George Cornell. He married Deliverance Clarke, daughter of Walter Clarke, who was a few years Governor of Rhode Island, and many years Lieutenant Governor. He died in 1714.

She was of a middling stature, thin of flesh, with blue eyes and light complexion, good looking, but not what is called very handsome. She was brought up in the country with but a small shred of education, which was common in those days, but improved all she had in the best possible manner, and was greatly esteemed by all who knew her. As it was her lot to live on a very scanty income for the greater part of her life, she wisely adapted her habits to her circumstances, and by a laborious and economical life, made herself and her family comfortable with the scanty means which she could command. She had a soul and a spirit far above her condition, but never indulged in fretfulness or yielded to despair. Her most anxious care and hope was for her children, and seemed to have a presentiment that in them she should enjoy that pleasure in her old age, which circumstances had denied her in middle life. She was a faithful wife, and in the character of a help mate stood second to none. As a mother, her character was equally above all praise as it was above all power of description; with her, truth was never forfeited, nor confidence betrayed; kind-faced and familiar with her children, she enforced

upon them the maxims of wisdom, with which her mind was abundantly stored. Their natures, which were more turbulent than hers, she managed with such address, that she led, but never drove them; and having by kindness, secured their affection, they in turn took pleasure in obliging her, though at the expense of their own propensities. Such a woman is a truly family blessing. "A wise woman buildeth up her house." Such was my honored mother. The benefit of such a maternal ancestor is often transmitted to her posterity; and generations who never knew her partake of the blessings, transmitted through her immediate, to her remoter posterity. She was a member of no Church, and never expressed a wish to become one, though her life was a pattern of morality, and she was a firm believer in Christianity. In her opinion, a moral and religious life needed not the aid of form or ceremony which often degenerates into hypocrisy. She usually attended the Meeting of Friends (or Quakers), but her household cares and labors did not permit a constant attendance on Divine worship.

She died of a lingering consumption, on the 15th day of September, 1799, aged 52 years, two months and 24 days.

HENRY BULL THE 4th, THE AUTHOR OF THIS BRIEF FAMILY HISTORY

I was born at Newport in the house where I now live on the 28th of August, 1778, being one day old on the day of the Battle of Rhode Island between the British forces then garrisoned here, and the American Army commanded by General Sullivan.

I was put to school at a very tender age to an old woman named Hannah Phillips (a widow), who lived in a building belonging to my father, distant from our mansion only about four rods, and had communication with our house through the yard. To this school I was sent, at first, more to relieve my mother of the care of me, than for what I was expected to learn. We had no family servant and my mother performed the household labors herself. The schoolmistress had a grand daughter then a young girl who was an orphan and depending on her grandmother; her name

was Charlotte Cranston. The school consisted of some 15 to 25 children. The entire tenement consisted of one room 12 feet square only, without even a cupboard in addition. This one room was Parlor, kitchen, bedroom, wash-room, woodhouse, and school house; besides accommodating Charlotte and a young neighboring blacksmith, a sweetheart of hers, with room to Court in. The old lady was poor, and our family was liberal to her considering their circumstances. At this school I remained until I was near seven years old and learned to read and spell a little, when in 1785 I was sent to another school kept by a Quaker man named Clarke Rochman, who kept in the house which stands on the east side of Farewell Street directly opposite the Coddington Burying place. He afterward moved to the corner of Spring and Mary Streets, where I followed him, and continued at his school until I was taken into my father's shop to work with him at stone cutting. At this school I learned to read, write and cipher; little attention was paid to spelling, and as for Grammar, the master knew nothing of it himself, nor did he pretend to teach it. I was a dull scholar, much given to play and little to study or application to any branch taught in the school. I had very little learning when I went there, and not much when I came away; but after I was fifteen years old I went to the same master two or three months one winter and reviewed my arithmetic with profit. What I went there of my own accord to learn I did not come away without. The first property that I ever had, except small playthings, and those were mostly of my own making, was a red box with a lock and key and a till inside. It was a chest in miniature of about two feet long. I mention this box as it caused me so many reflections. One of the school boys described it to me (the owner) in the most glowing terms, so that I was well prepared to admire it, which I did at the first view I had of it, which was as soon after the school broke up as we could go to his home. I fell in love with the box, and thought it would be a desirable purchase if it should even cost me all my inventory of playthings, and the boy who owned it, being much older than myself, knew well how to take advantage of my eagerness to become its owner. I was allowed by him to take the box and carry it home, and

he went with me to see if I had anything, or things, sufficient to give, and be accepted in exchange. I readily brought out all my inventory of playthings and he kindly consented to take the whole for the box, which he did, and carried them off with him. The box was now mine, and I looked at it, and played with it. I locked and unlocked and locked it again, and felt satisfied tolerably that day. The next morning I waked up early and thinking over my yesterday's transaction my admiration began to cool a little! I said what shall I do with the box now that I have got nothing to put in it? I shall soon be tired of playing with a box and nothing else and I am afraid that I have not made so good a bargain as I supposed, finally I lay there and thought of it, until I began to fear I had been taken in and given more than the value of the box. Then I cast about in my mind what was best to be done. How I longed to have my things back, and how I regretted the inconsiderate haste with which I had made the bargain. I asked myself, will he change back again? but the answer immediately suggested itself, not if he had the best of the bargain! I then got up, ate my breakfast, and went to school, but felt uneasy and impoverished all that day. I sounded the other boy as to changing back, but he assured me I had made a good bargain, and told me he had already parted with most of the things, so that it was now out of his power. I found I had to abide by my own error, and when I looked at my box, it now seemed as much below its real worth, as it had before above, such is the hateful sight of a bad bargain. I went to bed the next night and consulted my pillow, what was best to be done. I found there was no retreating. I had incautiously allowed myself to be taken in! and turn it which way I would the same result presented itself. I must put up with the loss! I then began to be more reconciled, as there was no more thinking to be done about it, that could avail anything. I settled down upon the only alternative, to pocket the loss and look out better for the future. I well recollect that my determination was that in all future purchases, or trading I would avoid buying anything that I took the most liking to, until I had waited till my fever for pos-possessing it had passed by; and I further determined that I never should become so enamored of anything, as to think I

could not do without it; that before I purchased a thing I would be convinced that it would be a good bargain from its own intrinsic market value. I have often thought since I was a man, and in trade, that my little box, though a bad bargain abstractly, was probably the most fortunate business transaction of my life.

I was early sent to the Quaker Meeting but was not fond of the confinement. I could not conceive the utility of sitting day after day in silence; and I found it impossible to confine my juvenile mind to religious contemplation. I was naturally ingenious, especially in working in wood, and as the frame of the building was nearly all in view, I was in the habit of keeping myself awake by taking down the house in my mind and remodeling it, sometimes into a meeting house; and as there were some crooked braces, I appropriated them to ship building. Thus, after making one thing of it, I would begin anew and make something else, and so on until the time to shake hands and retire came. After I was old enough to do as I pleased, either go to meeting or not, I preferred the latter, and seldom went anywhere until I was about 21 years old, when I hired a seat in the 2nd Baptist Meeting House, Joshua Bradley, Pastor. This I confess I was principally induced to do, as a certain young Lady went there which I was fond of seeing I went there until I was married, and a short time after, but when the Methodist Chapel was built, my wife and I both went to that meeting where I bought a pew, and continued until we had three or four children, when the habits of the church members were changed from an orderly and temperate, to a vaunting people, all of which we disapproved, and my wife and self concluded to take up our quarters in Trinity Church. Thus I had got back to the old family place of worship, to which my grandfather had belonged, and to the establishment of which he did so much in its infancy. In this Church I purchased a pew in the north aisle No. 47, and I now consider myself settled there for life.

While I was a boy, I had a great desire to possess something of my own, and when once became possessed of anything I was loth to let it go (I remembered the Box trade) and though my means of acquisition were very small, I became possessed of a gun and learned the use of it at an

early age, was a tolerable marksman and successful in killing game. The next was a watch, and the next a chaise, which last I got a little at a time, viz., first the body and next the carriage and wheels, then the harness, then painting, etc., until in, perhaps, two years the whole was complete, but not without having created a debt equal to half the value of it. I then sold my chaise, paid my debts, and had sixty dollars left. This was a great sum, and came into my possession when about fifteen years old. About this time my father had a fit of sickness which ended in the entire loss of his eyesight. The property which he then possessed consisted of about 4 acres of land, with a house and shop on it. This was a scanty provision for family of four, one of which—and the head—blind, besides he owed some debts at the time. The principal management of the land, and support of the family, the payments of the debts, all the outdoor labor and care developed on me at the early age of about 15 years. I had not learned my trade, but we had some work engaged and in progress which by my father's advice, though blind, I succeeded in finishing, after which I continued the business and succeeded tolerably, at least so as to be able to go along with it at first, and soon after I, by experience, made out very well. But I had an itching for something new and my father proposed my keeping a grocery. We had got along about one year and an half in this way, with the aid of some small income from the land, aided by a rigid domestic economy, and the family consisting of my father, mother, youngest sister and self, had in this way struggled along even-handed with the world for the time. I had now arrived to my 17th year, and conceived a strong desire for a sea faring life. This was opposed by both my father and mother, and the great affection I had, particularly for the latter, induced me to relinquish that design. I then took my father's advice and concluded to set up a Grocery, but we had no building suitable, although we had a lot to put one on. Then in the winter of 1794, between 16 and 17 years old, I purchased lumber with the \$60 received for the chaise, which I had kept in crib, and went to work to build me a grocery. I had a little experience in working in wood, which I principally acquired in a neighboring joiner's shop, and as my money

was all exhausted in buying the lumber, I undertook to build it myself, and succeeded in erecting and completing the building entirely with my own hands. It was 10 feet square and stood in the corner nearest to the hay scales. I also added on the back side a shed to enable me to work at my trade under the shed and tend the grocery at the same time.

In the Spring of 1795, being then in the 17th year of my age, I commenced the double operation of making gravestones and keeping shop, without any assistance in either business except that my mother or sister sometimes tended shop while I went out to make purchases, and occasionally a day's work hired in the manufacture of gravestones. My capital having been all exhausted in building the shop, I hired fifty dollars at 12 per cent Interest and gave my note for the same endorsed by my father. With this borrowed capital and \$16, the proceeds of my watch, which I sold to help out, I commenced Trader! and finding I could command a little dear bought credit I was enabled to stock my shop with a little assortment of groceries, one item of which I recollect was half a barrel of flour! In the course of the first year, I found my little capital improving, and my credit in a much greater ratio. My industry at the trade was a powerful auxiliary to the profits of the grocery. The whole, however, was small, and the family was to be supported out of our common means, and if anything remained the residue, was, by common consent to go to establish me in the world. I continued the business, gradually progressing in a small way until the year 1798 when my eldest sister Lydia's husband died on his passage from Berbicu in a sloop owned by him, loaded with coffee, principally as freight. This was a heavy and distressing loss to the whole family; he was young, enterprising, and his prospects flattering. My sister was left with two children, the youngest of which soon after died. The property he left consisted of a dwelling house on Thames St., value about \$1200, and between two and three thousand dollars in personal property. The widow administered and I helped her, and took care that everything was made the most of. She, being left a widow with two children, it was deemed most prudent to let the house, which she did, and lived in a part of my father's.

This loss, though a great one to the family, was then a little advantage in my way, by enabling me to use some of the money belonging to my sister, by paying interest for it, and then enlarging my business. The following year my mother died of a consumption at the age of 52 years. This was a dreadful affliction and an irreparable loss to her children, whose minds and habits she had done so much to form, by the wisdom of her maxims, the moral and useful tenor of her life, and the advice drawn from her own practical experience; all which enforced in a manner, kind, gentle and persuasive. She possessed a laudable but boundless ambition and fondly indulged the hope of realizing the summit of her wishes by living to see her offspring happy and prosperous. This was her ruling passion, it was strong in death, and caused her to submit to the King of terrors with more than ordinary reluctance. Her anxiety, even at that trying moment, was for her children, more than for herself.

With this misfortune, I struggled with all the fortitude in my power—it had wounded me in the most sensitive part—my mother was more to me than any other individual living; perhaps more than all the others, as to sincere love and affection. Under this affliction I found most consolation in reading Popes “Essay on Man!” His reasoning upon the frail tenors of all earthly possessions! all that is dear and enviable in life! This led my mind into a field of philosophic reflection, and in a degree reconciled me to my fate.

Not long after my mother’s death my widowed sister moved back to her own house, and I hired a tenement in the neighborhood, and commenced housekeeping with my unmarried sister, Phœbe; My father let out his house and land and boarded with one of the tenants. This proceeding on his part created an expense above his income, as he was greatly imposed upon by those he had chosen to confide in, and I supplied the deficiency to prevent him from parting with any part of the family estate, and a short time afterwards he gave me a deed of a small lot on which my shop stood, in payment. My advances, however, were continued from that time until his death.

My life, thus far, had been almost devoted to the pursuit of gain; I was anxious to repair the pecuniary circum-

stances of the family. I had never indulged in the most ordinary dissipation, but confined myself exclusively to my business, both by day and by night! Industry, punctuality, and economy had by this time established my credit, and my business became more considerable and lucrative, so that at the age of 22 years, I estimated my property at about \$1500 then rapidly on the increase. About the age of 22 or 23 I embarked in Navigation, and was successful in the first adventure, but lost more by the second than I had made by the first. My business at home, however, was prosperous; and my ambition and avarice had suffered no abatement by the failure of my second commercial enterprise. I next advanced my whole capital, and drew largely on my credit in these several adventures to the Coast of Africa, in the slave trade, believing that was the sure road to wealth. Those adventures proved ruinous; they were one quarter of the Brig Alfred and cargo, one eighth of another Brig, and one eighth of a schooner with cargoes, etc. On their return I found myself barely able to pay my debts. My local business has suffered some by the overshadowing effect of great commercial schemes, and such a series of misfortunes, fully known to the world, had a serious effect upon my credit. I found myself crammed in my business, and my creditors disposed to narrow rather than to extend their facilities. My friends became more cold, but quite as civil, they ceased to ask me for favors, the reason for which I had the sagacity to discover. My pride was wounded; I felt resentment; but prudence bid me suppress it. A crisis had arrived in my affairs, which, though not wholly desperate, was extremely discouraging! The truth was, my ambition had got so far ahead, and my fortune so far astern, that they were poor companions for one another. Besides I had become attached to a young and lovely female who had been brought up tenderly, and as she had some property, I would not ask her hand with such worldly odds in my favor; which if accepted might subject her as well as myself to a mode of life far below what we had both fondly anticipated. Under these circumstances, I sold off my stock in trade, which brought about \$1500, mortgaged the small real estate which I had, collected what debts I could, chartered part of a vessel, and loaded for Charlestown and the West Indies,

embarked myself in the capacity of super-cargo, in fact, though I held the papers as Captain. I was then 26 years old. I sailed for Charleston in the fall of 1804 but having on our passage been greatly damaged in our hull by another vessel, who run foul of us at sea, we put in to Newbern, in N. Carolina, to repair; after which we proceeded to Charleston, S. C., and from thence to Havana, and back to Newport. I realized from the profit of this voyage about *one thousand dollars*. This acquisition relieved my embarrassments, and soon after my arrival I was married to my present wife. My sister Lydia then boarded in Colchester (Connecticut) with her son Evan M. Johnson, who was a scholar in the Academy at that place. We took a horse and chaise and made her a visit and were then married by the Parson of the Village, (his name was Salmon Conn) on the 30th day of July, 1805, but our certificate was ante-dated one day through his mistake. Her maiden name was Mary Fones Holmes Tillinghast, and was born June 11th, 1782. She was the daughter of William Tillinghast, Phisician, deceased. She was Grand-daughter to John Holmes of Middletown, also deceased, who by his last will and testament devised to her nearly half his estate, and a like portion to her elder sister, Avis Tillinghast (who at this time was the wife of John Baker). My wife, on a division of said estate received about 87 acres with the dwelling house, barn, and other improvements, and is now the principal part of the farm we own in said Middletown.

Let me now go back a little further and take up my case at the time I was stripped of all my property by commercial misfortunes. I was about 25 years old, and had possessed what, to me, had appeared considerable, and I had naturally a great desire to accumulate. I now found myself as poor, or poorer, as when I first set out in the world, and was burdened with more pride; besides what was more mortifying than all, I was now taintly but not positively engaged to a woman on whom I doted with the fondest affection; and she too must come to share my disappointment ! This was the dark side of the picture. On the other hand I reflected that I had youth and health, and I flattered myself, capacity for business. I was a stranger to vice or dissipation of any kind; my character

remained unimpeached, and, without great injustice, unimpeachable. The world was still before me, and I stood more than an even chance with an average of mankind in the race. I had some small expectation from my father's property and my lovely Mary was not dependent. I related to her, in a degree, my situation, and my confidence was abundantly repaid. Her warm and generous heart sympathized in all my troubles, which instead of alienating, she gave it me, reserving only one condition, and that was, to defer our nuptials to a remote period, or at least till circumstances would fully justify our union. Good heavens! What a redeeming power had this happy interview. I was no longer poor; I revelled and luxuriated in a new kind of riches; that made amends, a thousand fold for all I had lost. I was now rich indeed! rich in the possession of a generous and sympathizing heart, with a confident prospect of adding to that inestimable treasure, the hand also! We were married within two years from that time. This I consider the most fortunate transaction of my life. I became acquainted with her soon after I was 21 years old. I was more than half captivated at the first sight, and have full realized in the possession of her all my golden dreams of wedded life.

I have already stated that our marriage took place in the Summer of 1805. Having contracted a slight fever in the West Indies I remained at home during the rest of the Summer and Autumn of 1805, when I found my health fully restored, and early in the Winter of 1806 I embarked again for Havana by way of Savannah in Georgia in a Brig called the German Peggy, owned by Mr. Stephen F. Northam, one half of which I chartered and went out supercargo. I returned the Spring following and found my wife just recovering from a fever, in which her life had been considered in great danger.

I now entertained a most decided aversion to a sea faring life, and determined, in future, to enjoy those domestic comforts, to which home and my connections invited. With that view I commenced keeping a Lumber Yard in company with Mess. Earle & Allston of Newport. We were not concerned in any other business, and I was the sole agent. I was allowed to take six hundred dollars a year out of the profits for my services, and the remainder if any, to

be divided between us. In 1809 or 1810 we took S. T. Northam into the concern, increased our capital to \$6000 and added to the Lumber Yard, a Grocery, Auction & Commission Store. I still continued to be sole agent on the same salary as before.

About this time, say 1808, my father's house had gone very much out of repair, and as he was far advanced in years, and had devised his real estate to me by will; and I was by his request appointed his guardian, I remodeled, modernized and repaired the house, which cost me about \$2000, and moved into it early in the fall of 1808. We had, until this time, lived in my mother Dillingham's house, and she made a part of our family with her son William also, both before and after our removal.

About the same time Messrs. Moses and William Thurston, Sanford Bell and myself set up a tallow chandlery, and afterward added to it a soap manufactory, which was committed to the agency of said Bell, which we carried on for several years with a fair profit.

In 1812 Messrs Earle & Allston failed, and I purchased their third of the stock of *Henry Bull & Co.* for the sum of \$3000, but was still concerned with Northam, as to his third, for about a year longer, when we closed the business and divided the property, agreeably to our respective ownership.

My father died Nov. 28th, 1808, and devised his estate to me. It was a matter of pride with him to keep it, not only in the family, but also in the name. He gave, however, to my sister Lydia's son, Evan M. Johnson (now of Brooklyn, N. Y.) one acre of land to be taken off from the south east part of his estate, but gave me the option to set off the land, or pay him three hundred dollars. I preferred the latter. Some small legacy was given to my sister, which I was charged with, and also with the payments of his debts &c., which, by the by, were nearly all due to me.

After I had closed my business connection with S. T. Northam, I continued the same on my own account. It was in the time of the late war, in the year 1813; and in a little more than one year from that time, I added to my capital about \$5000. That was the most successful business operation I had ever made in so short a time. This acquisition

induced me to push my fortune further. I then built a Gin Distillery to the eastward of my house, which I completed about the time peace took place; after which I worked it about one year with very little profit at first, and a considerable loss before I gave up the pursuit.

This brought about another new crisis in my pecuniary affairs; for while I carried it on it was extremely perplexing which with the loss added, so loaded me with care and anxieties, that I grew gray more in one year, than I had done before or have since, in then. I had sunk the whole of my personal property in erecting and working said Distillery, besides contracting considerable debts without the means to pay them aside from my real estate.

Thus straitened in my circumstances and thrown out of business! disappointed in my expectations! and impoverished by my enterprise! without the most distant hope of the revival of the Gin business in this part of the Country—as the grain distillers in the fruitful regions of the middle & Western States, in a time of peace would always be able to undersell us in our own market—I could not but feel severely the fatal issue of my unfortunate undertaking. Besides, I had now a wife and 4 small children depending upon me, so that to compare my past with my future prospects, was no pleasing reflection. I, however, reflected that I had been accustomed from my youth to meet pecuniary difficulties and disappointments and to overcome them; and in fact the case was not a desperate one. I then made some small alterations in my distillery, and on the 16th of July, 1816, commenced the experiment of making rum from molasses on a small scale, say about 100 gallons per day. I used the tubs, made for fermenting grain at first. This new attempt was attended with a success altogether above my expectation, and soon induced me to substitute cisterns underground for the tubs above, and before winter set in. I was enabled to make 350 gallons per day. Thus by a fortuitous necessity, I had been led into a business more to my liking and more profitable than any I had ever been before engaged in.

I continued the same business successfully and also built another Gin Distillery! not being quite willing to be entirely conquered by the Western Distillers without another

effort. I then carried on the Gin business in addition to the Rum for about 2 years, when I found I must strike my colors, which I did, and with a loss of about all the cost of the establishment. This loss, however, produced no serious consequences, as I was now better able to bear it, and my Rum business continued, for the greater part of the time, profitable. This brings me up to the year 1821.

Before I attempted so radical and doubtful a change in my business pursuits, as to give up my Lumber Yard and Store, which at the time was, neither, very propitious—I had frequent consultations with my wife respecting the measure. She had a mind worthy to be joined in council; and an equal share in the stake. I represented to her that if successful, it might much enlarge our worldly prosperity, and increase our means of enjoyment; and on the other hand it might be the means of stripping us of everything but her farm—which should in any event be saved—and drive us to a rural occupation. That our prospects were fair as they stood; that we hazarded much by the experiment, but that my ambition and enterprise strongly prompted me to the measure. That whatever might be the issue, she had an equal share in the stake, and I would not make the attempt unless it met her approbation, and she felt as if she had nerve enough to abide the issue. Her answer was, “that she relied more upon my judgment than her own; domestic management, care and economy, was a woman’s province and to enjoy prosperity without ostentation, or to sustain adversity with patience and resignation, was a duty due, not only to herself, but to her husband and her offspring.”

She assured me that so far as her lot in life might be affected by the result, “she was prepared to meet it,” and trusted, that she would not be the first to complain.

I shall pursue my narrative no further than 1821 at present—possibly I never may. It may be satisfactory to our children hereafter to know how their parents stood at this period in Pecuniary affairs. Our property in Middletown consisted of her division of the farm formerly her grandfather’s, which was divided between her and her sister Avis.

	acres	qui	rods	
July 17th, 1806,	87	1	3	
Purchased of I. Barker, Dec. 10,				
1808,	4	1	13	Cost \$300
Purchased of John & A. Barker				
Oct. 21, 1818,	30	2	19	Cost 2000
Whole contents of farm,	122	0	35	
I purchased as appendages to said farm two small rights on Smith's Beach for the sea manure which came there, one in 1816 and one in 1817—Cost				\$200
				\$2500

These were purchased in my wife's name, except one of the small sea-weed rights, which was not through mistake. (I have since purchased a more extensive sea-weed privilege of Richard K. Randolph, also in my wife's name, for which I paid \$500.00). This property with my own estate in Newport, was this year, 1821, valued by me at \$19700.89 over my debts then owing to others; from which remark the 500 dollars since paid Randolph is of course excepted.

I will here give a brief view of my opinions, and practices, respecting the expediency of young men's joining voluntary associations.

I was thrown upon my own resources in a great measure at a tender age. I never had a wealthy patron; nor any powerful friend interested in my behalf. I neither received nor expected any favors, but such as I was able to reciprocate in pecuniary affairs, out of my own family, and in it they had not the ability. In my intercourse with the *wealthy*, I always held myself their equal in everything *else*, and never purchased their favor by any species of surveillance.

The hill of fortune I undertook to ascend by my own personal strength, and my ability to do so, I seldom doubted. In fact, I was now induced to over-rate, than under-rate myself; *a very common error*. I had from my youth a great desire and formed a full determination, to retain as much of *personal nature liberty* as was consistent with the

state of society, and nature of the Government I lived in and under. To the law of the land, I knew it was my duty, my interest, and my security, to submit; and thereon I cheerfully made up my mind to obey any further abatement of my natural liberty I determined, early in life, to refuse, and avoid, and with that view, I could never be induced to join any society, Religious, social or Military. The great reason of my objection to such connections was that I would not subject myself to their charter stipulations, or to their by-laws and petty legislation. I did not deem it expedient to put myself under the censorship of others.

The original letter, of which this is a copy, is in the possession of Miss Mary Ann Fry.

Kingston, July 26th, 1700.

Brother and Sister Coggeshall:—

These may inform you that I heard the small pox was cleare out of the Town; but since I heare it has broke out again; I would disire you if you apprehend any danger, to send my son Henry back, and if no, may let him not go to Town if you judge any danger; it would trouble me exceedingly if he should be an instrument to bring the distemper to your family; not else but my love to you both with many thanks for your kindness to my son, I rest your loving sister,

Signed ANN BULL.

Remember my love to Henry.

The direction is wanting to the letter, but it was written at Narragansett, and directed to Newport.

HENRY BULL, 1st
ELIZABETH BULL

JIRETH BULL. Died about 1684.

Jireth, Henry, Ephraim, Ezekiel.

HENRY BULL 2nd of Kingston, married Ann Cole of the same Town. He died about 1690, aged about 32 years. She died May 31st, 1704, aged 45 years.

HESTER BULL. Died young.

MARY BULL. Married James Coggeshall.

HENRY BULL, 2nd, OF KINGSTON
ANN COLE

EPHRAIM. Born Jan. 24, 1690-1. Died young.

HENRY, 3rd. Married Martha Odlin, his first wife.

ANN. Died Dec. 18th, 1713, in the 24th year of her age.

HENRY BULL, 3rd
MARTHA ODLIN, *first wife*

HENRY. Born June 8, 1711. Died Aug. 31st, 1731.

LYDIA. Born Feb 26, 1713. Died Nov. 29, 1764, married Rouse Potter.

JOHN. Born March 24, 1714. Died March 23rd, 1726.

ANN. Born July 20th, 1716. Died Sept. 9th, 1716.

ELISHA. Born April 22nd, 1718. Died July 18th, 1718.

JIRETH. Born Jan. 23rd, 1720. Died May 9th, 1721.

HENRY BULL, 3rd
PHOEBE COGGESHALL, *second wife*

JOSEPH. Born Sept. 29, 1722. Married Mary Nichols.

Children—Ann, Mary, Nichols.

Buried in Common burying ground.

ANN. Born Dec. 25, 1723. Married Wm. Stevens. Had several children and moved to Philadelphia

DANIEL. Born Dec. 10, 1725. Died Jan. 26, 1753.

MARY. Born April 18, 1728. Died March 12, 1821, A.E. 92.

Married John Wanton. Had one son and one daughter who married Daniel Lyman.

PELEG. Born Nov. 6, 1730. Died June 24, 1750.

HENRY. Born Dec. 18, 1732. Died Wilmington, Delaware, about 1781.

JOHN. Born Sept. 8, 1734. Died Nov. 28, 1808. Married Ruth Cornell.

PHOEBE. Born Sept 22, 1738. Died a maiden, Aug. 9, 1814.

WILLIAM. Born Oct. 22, 1740. Died in Charleston.

GEORGE. Born Sept. 24, 1743. Died at Hepanish, July 7, 1760.

JOHN married
RUTH CORNELL

LYDIA. Born May 9, 1770. Married Samuel Johnson.

HENRY. Born Jan. 22, 1772. Died Sept. 1772.

PHOEBE. Born Sept. 13, 1773. Married James Carpenter.

HENRY, 4th. Born Aug. 28, 1778. Married Mary F. H. Tillinghast, July 30th, 1805. She was born June 11, 1782.

HENRY BULL, 4th
MARY F. H. TILLINGHAST

SARAH TILLINGHAST. Born Dec. 24, 1808. Married William G. Hammond.

Children:—William, Henry Bull, George (died), George Bowen.

CATHERINE DENNIS. Born Feby 19, 1811. Married Marshall C. Slocum. Committed suicide May, 1874.

PHOEBE CARPENTER. Born Jan. 17, 1814.

HENRY, 5th. Born Dec. 9, 1815. Married Henrietta Melville.

MARY. Born July 23, 1818. Died Oct. 13, 1819.

JOHN. Born July 11, 1822.

Henry Bull, the author of this, was married to Mary Fones Holmes Tillinghast, as before recited.

Henry Bull

Mary F. H. Bull

Their children:

1. Sarah Tillinghast, born Dec. 24th, 1808.
2. Catharine Dennis, born Feb. 19, 1811.
3. Phebe Carpenter, born Jany. 17, 1814.
4. Henry, born July 23, 1818. Died Oct. 13, 1819.
5. Mary Tillinghast, born Dec. 9, 1815.
6. John, born July 11th, 1822.

Sarah married Wm. G. Hammond.

Henry married Henrietta Melville, July 11, 1837.

John married Clara A. Peckham.

Catharine married Marshall C. Slocum.

Henry Bull the 5th married Henrietta Easton Melville, July 11th, 1837, in the 22nd year of their ages.

Their children were:

Mary Catharine, born July 23rd, 1838; died Oct. 21, 1838.

Henrietta Melville, born April 15, 1840; died Oct. 17, 1856.

Henry, born Feby. 3, 1842.

Catherine Slocum, born Feb. 26, 1844; died Aug. 17, 1844.

William Tillinghast, born Mch. 19, 1845; died Aug. 31, 1845.

A son—not named, born May 3, 1848; lived 18 hours.

William Tillinghast, born May 18, 1849.

A daughter—not named, born Oct. 15, 1851; lived 12 hours.

Charles Melville,, born Oct. 9, 1852.

Melville, born Sept. 29, 1854.

Harriet Ellery, born June 21, 1857.

Henry Bull the 6th married Sarah Munso Barstow Russell, of Mattapoisett, Mass.

Their children were:

Henry

William Tillinghast

Alice Russell

Harriet Ellery Bull, daughter of Henry and Henrietta Bull was married to Frank Smyth of Philadelphia, Pa., November 7th, 1877, at Trinity Church, Newport, R. I., by Rev. Wm. Magill.

Their children were:

Frank, born Aug. 4th, 1879.

Charles Melville Bull, son of Henry and Henrietta Bull, married Louise Van Brunt of Brooklyn, November 19th, 1879, at Christ Church, Brooklyn, by Rev. Dr. Bancroft.

Their children were:

Adele Henrietta, born October 9th, 1880.

Charles Melville, born February 3rd, 1882.

Edith Bull, born April 21st, 1884.

Mabel Louise, born April 6th, 1886.

I now give the genealogy of my wife's family, agreeably to the best evidence I have been able to obtain. I am in-

debted to a literary and amiable friend (female)—Miss Aris Howland—a relation of my wife's, for the following genealogy of the Tillinghast family.

GENEALOGY OF THE TILLINGHAST FAMILY

"Pardon Tillinghast came from England to Providence, R. Island, where he was received as a proprietor, the 19th of the eleventh month, 1645. The tradition of the family is, that he had served in Cromwell's War. It appears that he lived in Newport in 1663 but returned to Providence, where in 1681 he was an Elder in the Baptist Church, and was living in 1688. He married as his second wife ———— Tabor, by whom he had eight children: Phillip, Pardon, Benjamin, Joseph, Martha, Lydia, Hannah and Mary."

"May the third, 1692 Phillip, eldest son of said Pardon married Martha Holmes, daughter of Jonathan Holmes, who was the eldest son of Obadiah Holmes, the first settler of that name on R. Island (here my wife's paternal & maternal ancestors were related.) Phillip died in the 63rd year of his age, and his wife, Martha, in 1728, aged 53 years. They *had 15 children, viz.*"

1st, Charles, born 1692.

2nd, Phillip, born in 1694.

3rd, John, born 1696.

4th, Jonathan, born 1699.

5th, Pardon, born 1701.

6th, Martha, born 1703; married a Powers.

7th, Obadiah, who died young.

8th, Joseph, born 1706, died at the Isle of Wight, aged 18.

9th, Lydia, born 1708; married Solomon Townsend.

10th, Sarah, born 1709; married Daniel Greene.

11th, Samuel, born 1711, died at sea, young.

12th, Ann, born 1713; married Nicholas Powers, Providence.

13th, William, born 1714.

14th, Elisha, born 1716.

15th, Mary, born 1718; married John Wiley, N. York.

"Jonathan lived in Newport; Charles, William, and Elisha settled in Providence; Phillip married a Borden, lived and died in Newport, and left several children, but

none of them left a descendant. John died a bachelor at the age of 79. He built the house now owned and occupied by Gov. Wm. C. Gibbs in Mill Street, opposite the Stone Mill in Newport, and left a large property to be divided among his relatives, and a legacy to the 2nd Baptist Church of which he was a member.

"Pardon in the year 1729 married Margaret Greene of Warwick, by whom he had one child, Pardon, who died young. He married Aris Newton, daughter of Benjamin Newton, for his second wife, by whom he had twenty children, most of whom died in their infancy. He died in 1784, aged 82 years, and left four children: Aris, born the 30th of June, 1738, married 1760 to James Carpenter, son of Joseph Carpenter, of Long Island in the State of New York. He settled in Newport. Martha married John Slocum of Newport; Pardon married Abigail Rogers of Newport; and William married Sarah Holmes," who afterwards married Edward Dillingham, by whom she had one son named William F. Dillingham. She survived both her husbands and her son. (She died—since writing this—at the house of Henry Bull in Newport, the 24th day of May, 1836, at 8 o'clock A. M., in the 80th year of her age.) the before named William Tillingham, and Sarah, his wife, had three daughters: Catherine, born June 12, 1777, who married John Dennis and had 5 sons.

Darius, married Mary Goddard and died at sea.

John, died young—was drowned.

William, a cripple from his birth, died young.

Isaac, died young.

Wanton, born February, 1809.

Aris, born Sept. 21, 1779, and married John Baker, they had 4 children who lived to grow up.

Mary, born Aug. 15, 1808, died Aug. 6, 1835.

Catharine, born April, 1812.

John, born May 1st, 1807.

Adelade, born February 23rd, 1816.

Her husband died in St. Mary's in Georgia, and she with her children removed to Providence, and from there to Brooklyn, N. York.

Mary, the youngest daughter, born June 11, 1782, it was my good fortune to espouse.

GENEALOGY OF THE HOLMES FAMILY

Obadiah Holmes, who suffered a persecution at Boston on account of his Religious practice, in the year 1651 was born in Lincolnshire in Old England, in the year 1606, of parents who, to use his own words, "were faithful in their generation, and of good report among men, and brought up their children tenderly and honorably." I have stated in another place that he was educated at the University of Oxford, which I now believe was not the case, he had however two brothers educated there. While a young man, he contracted habits of vice, and dissipation, in which practices he continued some time, but on the death of his mother he became devoted to a moral and religious life, in which he persevered to the end of his days.

He was married to Catharine, his wife, about the year 1636. The time of his coming to America is not positively known; but he joined the church in Salem in 1645. He became a Baptist in 1649, and removed about that time to Seakonk, and from thence to Newport about the year 1651 or 1652, at which time he had eight children, nor do we know that he ever had any after. Their names were: *Jonathan, John, Obediah, Samuel, Hope, Martha, Mary and Lydia*. *Hope* married a man by the name of *Taylor*. *Martha* an *Odlin*, *Mary* a *Brown*, and *Lydia* a *Bound*. On coming to R. Island, he in company with three others, purchased a tract of land of a man by the name of *Clarke*, said to have been formerly Land of the *Hutchinsons*, lying in the eastern part of the Township of Newport. He settled on his division of said purchase, most of which is still in the possession of his descendants in the female line. The name of *Holmes* on the Island is now extinct; but his descendants in the male line are still numerous in New Jersey and elsewhere. His wife survived him a short time; her character has been handed down by family tradition as one of the most amiable of women and one who has secured the affections of her husband in a most eminent degree, as appears by his address to her, which address is still extant, in manuscript, and was intended as a consolation to her if she survived him.

He succeeded the Rev. John Clarke as Rector or first elder of the first Baptist Church in Newport, which place

he held until his death. His writings in manuscript are still preserved, among which are the 35 articles of his belief, and various addresses to his wife, his children, the Church, and the world.

He was frequently a member of the General Assembly. He died at his home in Newport, October 15th, 1682, aged 76 years, and was buried in his own family burying place.

He left his farm to his eldest son, Jonathan, and charged upon it legacies to his wife and all the rest of his children.

Jonathan Holmes held the patrimonial Estate, and we next find it in the possession of Joseph Holmes, who was his son, according to the very imperfect family record, which in my opinion, can not be entirely relied upon, as there appears too great a space between Jonathan and Joseph for father and son, which induces me to think it probably there was one Generation or link overlooked.

But we must take it as we find it and say Jonathan was the son of Obediah.

(The lines italicized in this and the previous page should be stricken out, as I am now satisfied that Joseph was the son of Jonathan, agreeably to the family record. Joseph Holmes' gravestone, since examined, says he died Oct. 26th, 1746, in the 75th year of his age). (This was written on the fly leaf of original). Joseph, the son of Jonathan, the time of his birth was about 1677. He was a wealthy farmer and added largely to his estate. He married the widow Hazard, who had one son by a former husband; her maiden name was Margaret Fones, by her he had four children, Jonathan, Joseph, John and Sarah. Sarah died before her father, and Jonathan and Joseph soon after him; so that his widow and son John only, survived him for any length of time.

His death took place October 26th, 1746. He was the owner of three farms and a large personal inventory for those days which amounted to £8857-7-11, the currency being at that time 44 to the ounce of silver. He had eight negro slaves when he died, viz: Dick, Tobey, Newport, George, Pero, Cato, Jacob and Will, besides a negro woman which he gave to his wife, making in all, nine.

John Holme, the son of Joseph Holmes, was left at the

tender age of nine years the sole heir of his father's estate, which was managed by his mother, and before he came of age it had suffered great loss by her mismanagement.

He married Mary Vose, daughter of Captain Ebenezer Vose of Newport, by whom he had one daughter named Sarah, who was born November the 18th, 1756 (she is now living in my family this year 1805).

He was a strong minded man, but willful in the extreme, determined in his character, but scrupulously fair and honest in all his dealings. He was much perplexed by litigation, and spent some years in England in prosecuting an appeal from the Colony Courts in which judgment had been rendered against him on a mortgage. If he had consulted his own interest, he would have submitted to the colonial judgment but his will determined otherwise. He was fond of undertaking what was difficult for the pleasure of overcoming it. He prosecuted his appeal in England at a great expense, and with much ability appeared and advocated his case personally before the high court of appeals; without the benefit of much education—recovered judgment and returned with it to this country. He was born 1737, July 14th, and died Nov. 27th, 1799, aged 62 years.

Sarah Holmes, daughter of John and Mary Holmes, was born, as before stated, Nov. 19th, 1756, and was married to William Tillinghast, Physician, Dec. 25th, 1775. They had three daughters as has been before seen.

Catharine, born June 12, 1777.

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Avis, born Sept. 21, 1779.

Mary Fones Holmes, born June 11, 1782.

William Tillinghast, the Husband, died of a consumption January 26th, 1786, leaving her a widow, but her father still living. She married a second husband, Edward Dillingham (Marriner) who had a number of children by a former wife. This match was disapproved of by her father. It took place in June, 1792. By him she had one son, William Tillinghast Dillingham, who was born July 28th, 1794, and died June 26th, 1827. Edward Dillingham, the husband, was lost at sea in the month of January, 1800, the vessel he commanded was never heard from. Thus leaving his wife a widow for the second time. Her father died a short time previous to her husband and devised his estate principally

1000

to his two granddaughters, Avis and Mary, excepting only 77 acres of land to the oldest child of Catharine Dennis, which was to remain in the hands of Avis and Mary until said oldest son should arrive at the age of 18 years.

He charging upon Avis and Mary the proper support of their mother, if ever she should become needy, and likewise the expense of a liberal education to his grandson, Wm. T. Dillingham. Owing to his father's death, he never received a liberal education, but in lieu thereof, his two sisters, Avis and Mary, were at the charge of bringing him up and giving him a good common school education.

Under whosoever observation this book may fall, I beg them to excuse the imperfections, which are many, in the performance; some of them from the defect of education, and others from the hurried manner in which it has been put together, most of which is in the rough draft, and has never been correct, and copied as I yet intend it shall be.

(Signed) HENRY BULL.

Benedict Bull came from Newport, and settled in Milford, Ct., about 1711 or 12. He left brothers in R. I., Joseph and John.

SOCIETY NOTES

Ever since the Christian Science organization ceased to hold their services in our Meeting Room we have been minus a piano. And this void has been deplored by the members of some of the local societies who at various times hold their meetings here. The gap has now been filled—like many another one—by our President, who has very kindly given us a Chickering piano, which not only sounds well, but also looks well, in the old Seventh Day Baptist Church.

By an error of omission, no mention was made at the last meeting of a most interesting addition to our collection: a plaster replica of the marble bust of Gilbert Stuart, which stands in the hall of the Redwood Library. This handsome bust has also been given by the President.

"Perry Day," September 10th, was recognized by the Society, its flag being hoisted

as usual in honour of the victor of the Battle of Lake Erie. Ours appears to have been the only flag in evidence throughout the greater part of the day. In the evening, however, an impressive celebration took place in Washington Square, which attracted a large gathering.

Mrs. Charles C. Gardner, Chairman of the Library Committee, has for weeks past been laboring at the herculean task of rearranging the library—separating the goats from the sheep—a nerve-wracking process. Our rigid policy of limitation to works pertaining to Newport necessitates the elimination of a multitude of books, chiefly gifts, which has been increasing through a period of twenty or thirty years—many of these so valuable, except for their alien origin—as to make it a painful duty for a book lover to part with them.

This housecleaning, to Mrs. Gardner's great relief, is now nearing completion.

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